

**Introduced by Committee on Health and Human Services  
(Senators Ortiz (Chair), Alarcon, Escutia, Figueroa, Florez,  
Kuehl, Vasconcellos, and Vincent)**

March 11, 2004

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An act to amend Section 16122 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to adoption.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1912, as introduced, Committee on Health and Human Services. Adoption Assistance Program: home studies by agencies: compensation.

Existing law, the Adoption Assistance Program, requires the state to compensate private adoption agencies for the unreimbursed costs of placing for adoption children in foster care who are eligible for program benefits, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 per child adopted. Existing law and state regulations require the completion of a home study of prospective adoptive parents as a prerequisite to adoption.

This bill would require the state to compensate private adoption agencies for the unreimbursed costs of either completed home studies for, or the placement for adoption of, children eligible for program benefits, or both. The bill would limit the amount of compensation to \$3,500 per child adopted for either the costs of an adoption home study or the costs of placement, and to \$5,000 for both.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 16122 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

16122. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this chapter to provide children who would otherwise remain in long-term foster care with permanent adoptive homes. It is also the intent of ~~this~~ *the* Legislature to encourage private adoption agencies to continue placing these children, and in so doing, to achieve a substantial savings to the state in foster care costs.

(b) From any funds appropriated for this purpose, the state shall compensate private adoption agencies licensed pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 1500) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code for *the costs of either completing home studies at the request of referring county child welfare agencies for, or placing for adoption, children eligible for Adoption Assistance Program benefits pursuant to Section 16120-, or both, as follows:*

(1) These agencies shall be compensated for otherwise unreimbursed costs for *either completed home studies, or the placement of these children, in an amount not to exceed a total of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per child adopted, and not to exceed a total of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for both.*

~~Half~~  
(2) *Half* of the compensation shall be paid at the time the adoptive placement agreement is signed. The remainder shall be paid at the time the adoption petition is granted by the court. Requests for compensation shall conform to claims procedures established by the department. ~~This~~

(c) *This* section shall not be construed to authorize reimbursement to private agencies for intercountry adoption services.

~~(e) Effective July 1, 1999, the maximum amount of reimbursement pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be five thousand dollars (\$5,000).~~